

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In claims 38, the prior art fails to disclose said protocol packet is broadcast to a plurality of neighbors of said origin node to find a target node of said protocol packet, said protocol packet comprises command-specific data, said command-specific data comprises a link state advertisement count field, said protocol packet is configured to record a protocol packet path history from said origin node to said target node, and said protocol packet path history comprises information regarding a topology of at least a portion of said network.

In claims 111, 124, 137, 150, the prior art fails to disclose receiving at least one link state advertisement from a node other than said sending node; sending said at least one link state advertisement from said downstream node to said sending node; and receiving an acknowledgement of said at least one link state advertisement at said downstream node.

In claims 163, 177, 191, 205, the prior art fails to disclose processing said link state advertisement, wherein processing said link state advertisement comprises sending said link state advertisement from said downstream node; adding said link state advertisement to a link state database maintained at said downstream node; and sending an acknowledgement from said downstream node, wherein said acknowledgement acknowledges all link state advertisements in said hello packet.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh Nguyen whose telephone number is 571 272 3092. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kwang Yao can be reached on 571 272 3182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hanh Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2473